

## **MULTI-ETHNIC HEALTHY AGING SUMMITS WIN NATIONAL AWARD**

A program to improve the health of the elderly in Sacramento has won a national award from the American Society on Aging. The Society recognized the multi-ethnic "healthy aging summits" coordinated by the multi-ethnic task force of the Healthy Aging Coalition of Northern California. Aging summits provide free health screening, referral for care and culturally specific health information to older residents with limited access to health care.

The ASA Health Care Network in collaboration with Pfizer, Inc. will present the award for innovation in health care and aging. Leslie Sandberg, chair of the Healthy Aging Coalition of Northern California and chief administrative officer of the UC Davis Center for Healthy Aging will accept the award on behalf of the Coalition, and present a workshop on the design of aging summits at a national meeting of the American Society on Aging in March 2003.

Members of the Healthy Aging Coalition of Northern California include - Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, Catholic Healthcare West and local Mercy Hospitals and UC Davis Health System; the California State Department of Aging; AARP; Hadassah; California State University, Sacramento, Gerontology Department; and other government and non-profit entities.

Martha Geraty, co-chair of the multi-ethnic summits and outreach coordinator at the Center of Healthy Aging, said, "The ethnic elderly population experience many barriers in accessing health care, such as language, custom and economics. By working with interested, involved people from each community, we've been able to offer vital services to a population in need and improve health."

The multi-ethnic task force worked to involve each community in planning the summits. The task force applied health research to plan health lectures and design health education handouts targeted to known health problems. The organizers also provided translation services at each summit.

Among the organizations involved in planning the multi-cultural summits were such agencies as Asian Resources Inc., Hmong Women's Heritage Association Inc., Sacramento Lao Family Community Inc., and the Southeast Asian Assistance Center.

Among other winners of the 2003 Healthcare and Aging Awards was the Health and Human Services Agency, San Diego, California.

For information on upcoming aging summits in Sacramento and northern California check the following website:

<http://healthyagingsummit.ucdavis.edu>.

The next regional aging summit is scheduled for Oct.18, 2003 at Cal Expo in Sacramento.